MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
AND
GHOST RIDER
CAGE
ALSO:
MAJOR VICTORY
MARVEL comics
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
DIRECT EDITION

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Marvel Readers Presents,

Well, you've asked for more letters so I figure I can be a regular writer, since I am a regular reader.

In general MCP is the finest title on the market today, in my opinion. True, it's a bit unorthodox, but that's a point in its favor. I get tired of all these crossovers, all the humongous epics, and all the universe-shattering, ten-to-fifteen-title spanning storylines. Not that I dislike it, but comics should be fun, too. Each story is usually a story, not a (forgive me) episode in a soap opera. I like that.

Actually, I had basically quit collecting comics once you guys cancelled KING CONAN/CONAN THE KING. I think, though, that bringing the crème de la crème of the Marvel Multiverse to MCP, with Wolverine leading the pack, is what got me interested again. Thanks.

I love the Typhoid Mary/Ghost Rider bit, too, but I think you should consider curtailing the Ghost Rider appearances. He loses his mystique when he's in every title you have, and MCP could make better use of the space. Maybe Darkhawk, Warlock or Jack of Hearts (is he still around?) would make for a more appropriate feel to the book. And I have to put in a word for Conan.

Thanks for your ears and see you in two weeks.

Butch Miller
P.O. Box 2501
Whitehouse, OH 43571

Seeing as you're such a big Conan fan, Butch—you must be pretty happy to learn that the new editor of MCP is none other than the editor on all those Conan titles we do still print.

Now that Ace-Editor Richard Asford has total control, perhaps he'll turn it into a walloping Conan slugfest. Then again, maybe not.

Dear Marvel Presents,

I'm enjoying the Iron Fist 8-parter, "The Book of Changes" and anticipate the conclusion with much excitement. Dave Hoover's art is much enhanced by Jeff Albrecht's inks but as for resembling Liefeld's work? (as Scott Haan said) I don't think so. Overall I give this one an A-.

The Ghost Rider story is a little too out there for me but the art is exciting. Ghost Rider definitely played second fiddle in this one, despite being the cover draw. Oh well, he looks good on it, without a doubt. The wrap up was good.I give this a B+.

The Wolverine story has been pretty good. I enjoyed seeing the Lynx and hope to see more of her (hint, hint). The conclusion left me with the feeling that this may just be the case. Fine with me. This rates another A-.

American Eagle—interesting, but not a character I jump up and down about. I'll give it a B. Even though it's not a favorite, it was a good story and John Figueroa's writing held my interest.

I'm looking forward to the new serials starting up and keep Fry and Collazo doing those covers. Fab job!

Melanie Bourne
327 Grove St., #322
Jersey City, NJ 07302

We can see that you have high standards, Melanie. Thank you for your assessments of our current serials. See you all in two weeks, when Mssr. Ashford and Kraiger will be firmly ensconced in these pages..

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS GHOST RIDER

James Fry — COVER
Richard Ashford — NEO-EDITOR
Michael Kraiger — NEO-ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco —NOT SO NEO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.
GHOST RIDER/CAGE .. 1
HEART AND SOUL...
Part 4 of 6
"FUEL FOR LOVE"

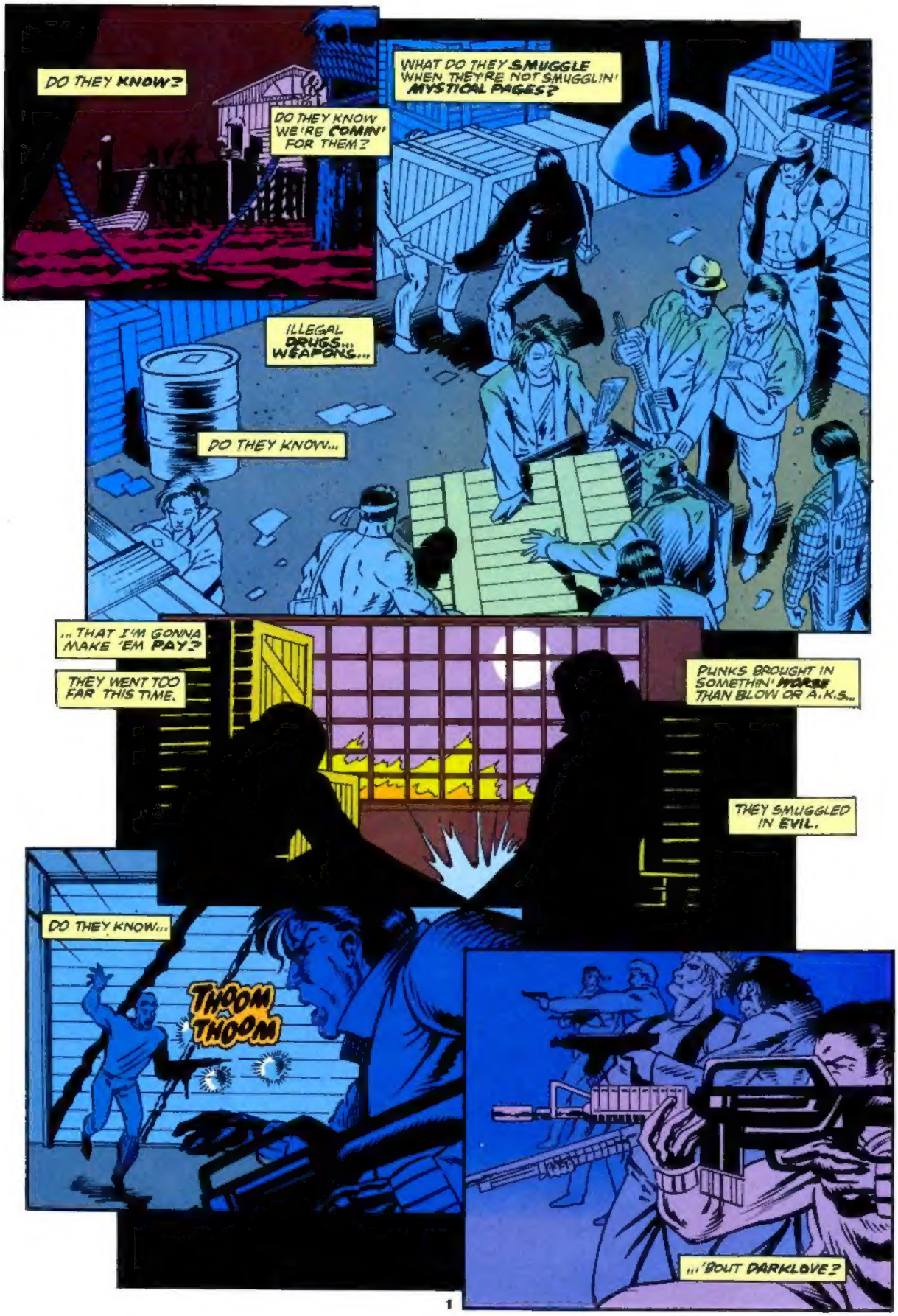
The mystery of Darklove revealed!—sort of...

Writer — KARL BOLLERS
Penciler — FREDDY MENDEZ
Inker — FRANK PERCY
Letterer —UL HIGGINS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

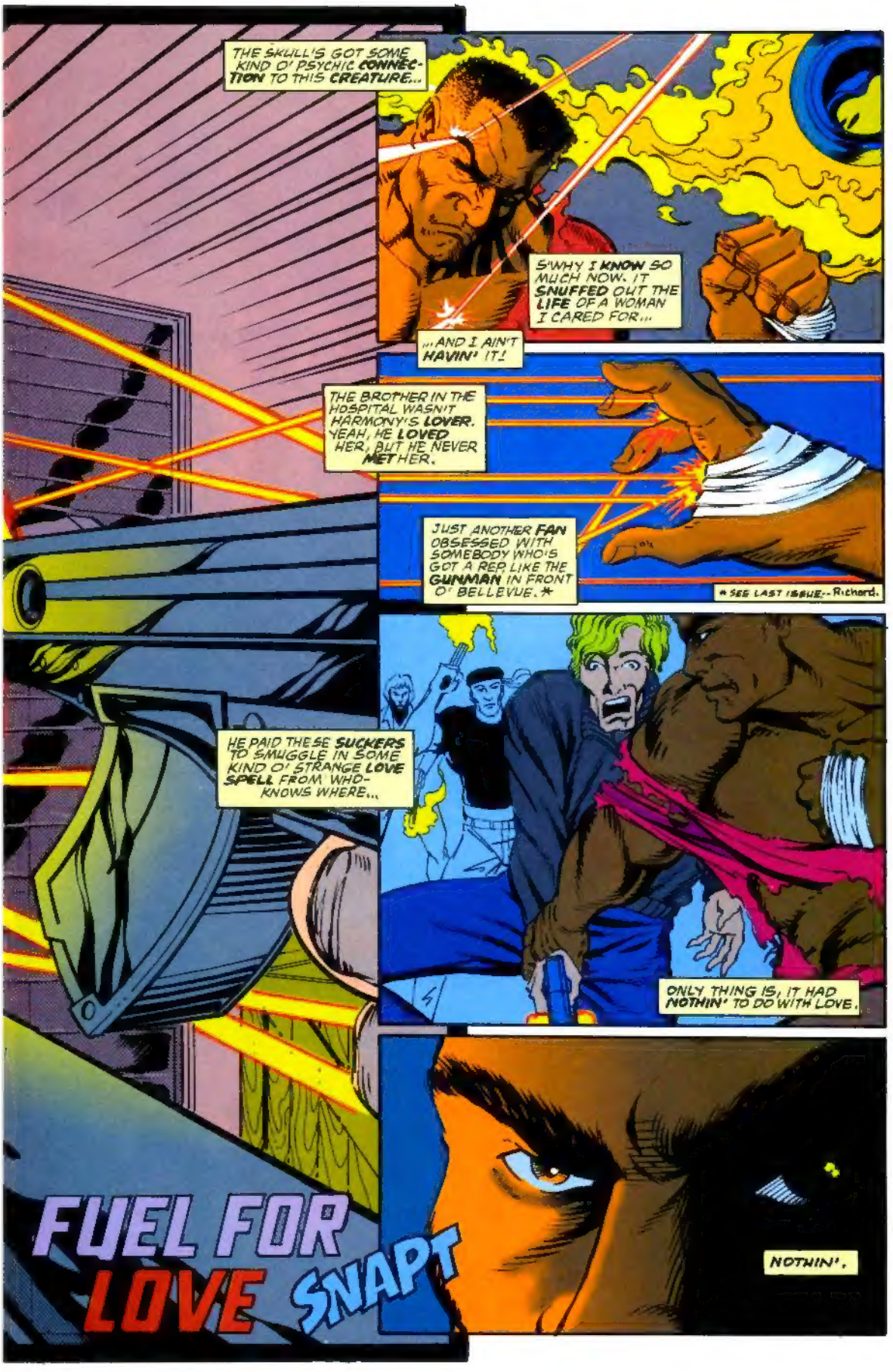
pg.
MAJOR VICTORY..... 9
"TRUE LOVE"

Major Victory learns a lesson in interstellar relationships.But what is this thing called love?

Writer —MARIANO NICIEZA
Penciler — FREDDY MENDEZ
Inker — CHRIS IVY
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — FREDDY MENDEZ


DO THEY KNOW?
DO THEY KNOW WE'RE COMIN' FOR THEM?
WHAT DO THEY SMUGGLE WHEN THEY'RE NOT SMUGGLIN' MYSTICAL PAGES?
ILLEGAL DRUGS... WEAPONS...
DO THEY KNOW...
...THAT I'M GONNA MAKE 'EM PAY?
THEY WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME.
PUNKS BROUGHT IN SOMETHIN' WORSE THAN BLOW OR A.K.S...
THEY SMUGGLED IN EVIL.
DO THEY KNOW...
THOOM THOOM
...'BOUT DARKLOVE?

THEY'RE 'BOUT TO.
AND TRYIN' TO BUST A CAP IN ME OR THE GHOST RIDER AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT ANY LESS DIFFICULT...
...OR PAINFUL.

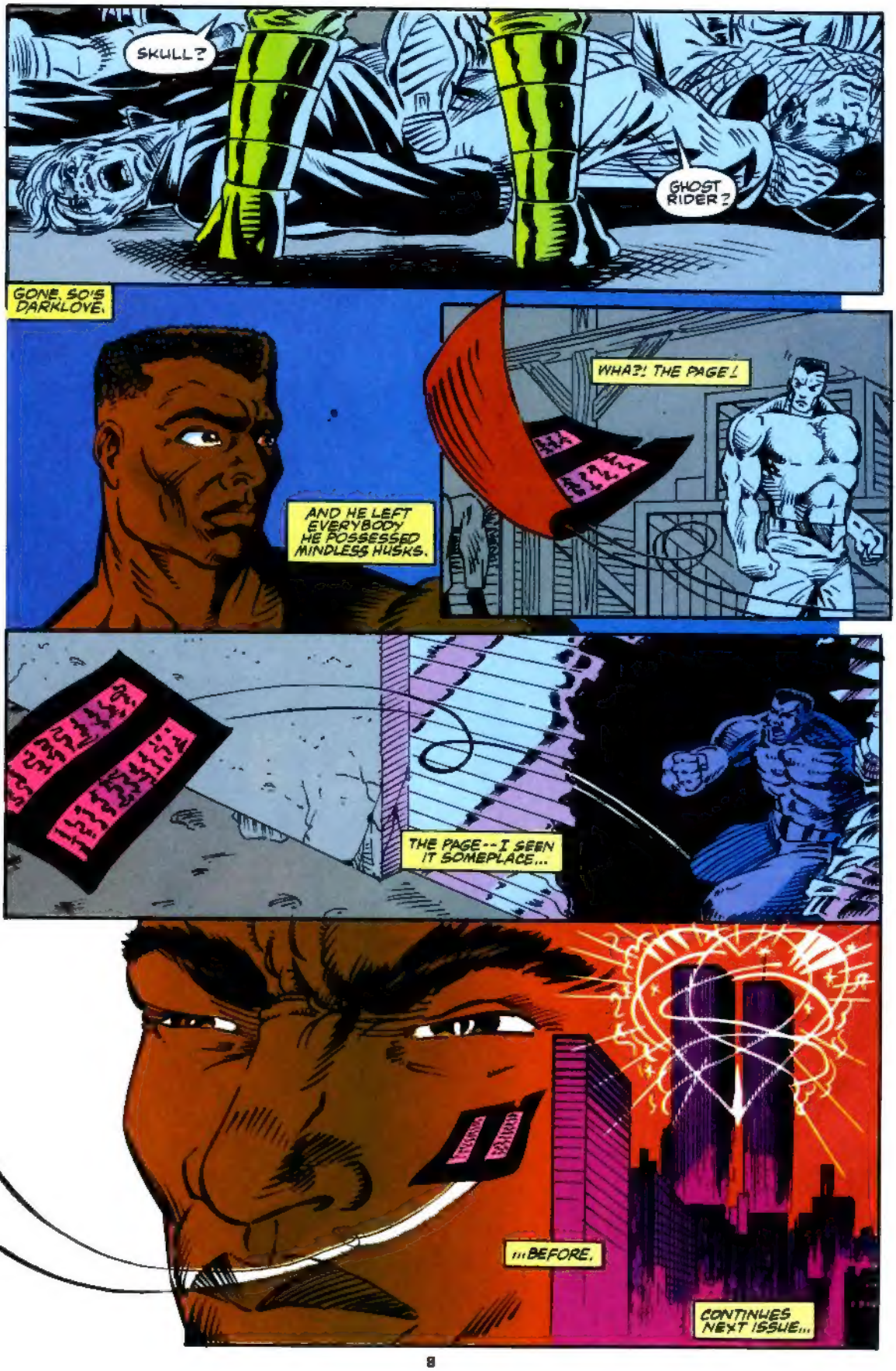

THE SKULL'S GOT SOME KIND O' PSYCHIC CONNECTION TO THIS CREATURE...
S'WHY I KNOW SO MUCH NOW. IT SNUFFED OUT THE LIFE OF A WOMAN I CARED FOR...
...AND I AIN'T HAVIN' IT!
THE BROTHER IN THE HOSPITAL WASN'T HARMONY'S LOVER. YEAH, HE LOVED HER, BUT HE NEVER MET HER.
JUST ANOTHER FAN OBSESSED WITH SOMEBODY WHO'S GOT A REP LIKE THE GUNMAN IN FRONT O' BELLEVUE.*
* SEE LAST ISSUE--Richard.
HE PAID THESE SUCKERS TO SMUGGLE IN SOME KIND O' STRANGE LOVE SPELL FROM WHO-KNOWS WHERE...
ONLY THING IS, IT HAD NOTHIN' TO DO WITH LOVE.
NOTHIN'.
FUEL FOR LOVE SNAPT

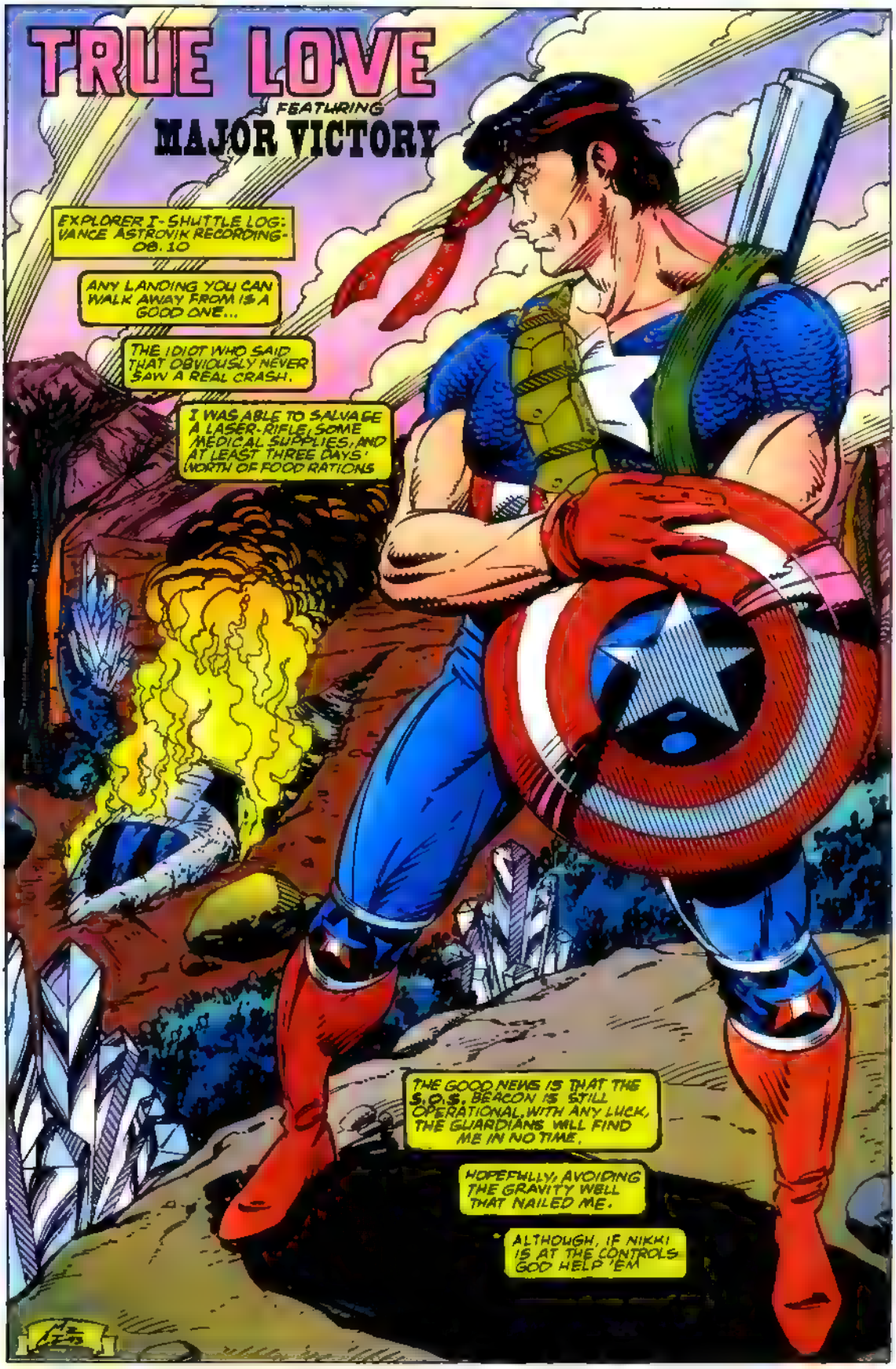
ALL IS NOT CLEAR...
THE BOOK OF THE DARKHOLD HAS STOLEN HUMAN LIFE ONCE MORE.
ONLY MORTALS COULD BELIEVE ONE OF ITS PAGES TO BE CONCERNED WITH LOVE.
DARKLOVE IS POWERFUL--HE TAKES POSSESSION OF INNOCENT HUMANS AND COMMITS EVIL.
MY PENANCE STARE WOULD AFFECT THE HOSTS.
BUT YOU HAVE NO SUCH SAFEGUARDS.
ZNG
BLAM

--'S'OUTTA MY BALLPARK.
IT IS BECAUSE OF THE ONES LIKE YOU--
--THAT EVIL HAS ITS WAY.
NOW TELL ME--
--WHERE IS THE CARETAKER OF THE DARKHOLD? THE DWARF?
AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS CAN BE, I GATHER.
I MEAN, WOULD YOU WANT TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM AS A POSSESSED HORDE OF HOODLUMS.

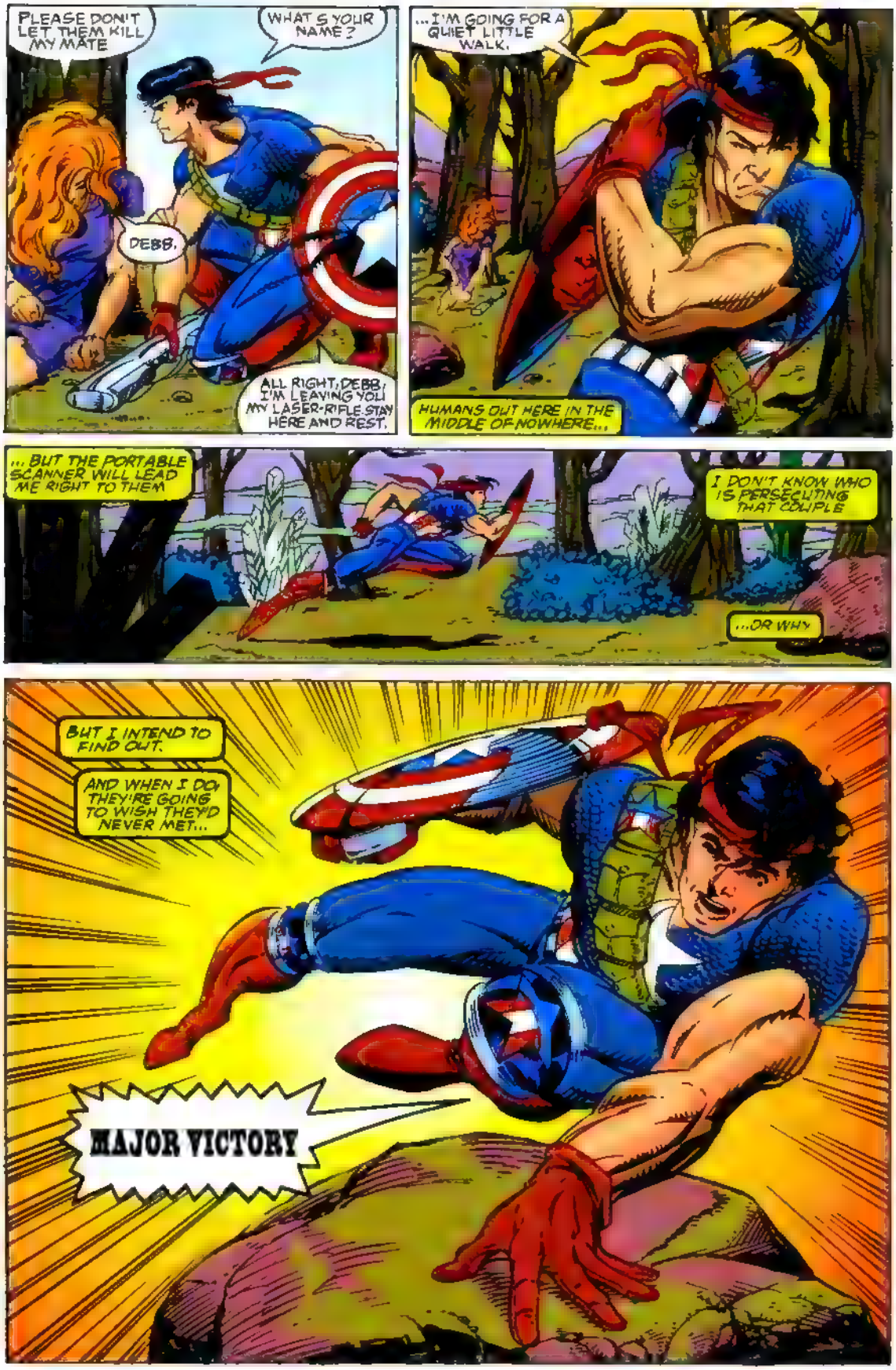
YOU JUST DON'T COMPREHEND IT, DO YOU? I AM UN-STOPPABLE.
MY PLAN IS IN MOTION AND WILL NOT BE HALTED.
YOUR FUMBLINGS ARE OF NO CONCERN TO ME.
THE GREATER THE NUMBER OF LOVE-RELATED KILLINGS; THE GREATER MY POWER BECOMES...
YOU CAN SNAP THE BONES OF A HANDFUL...
...BUT CAN YOU FIGHT AN ENTIRE CITY? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT WILL BE.
SKULL!

YOU, CAGE, ARE THE MOST FASCINATING MORTAL I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.
YOU STRIVE TO BE THE EVERYMAN'S HERO.
WHAT ROLE WILL YOU PLAY ONCE I AM EVERY MAN?
I FIGHT THE URGE TO POSSESS YOU ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE SO ENTERTAINING UNTOUCHED.
TO TORMENT YOU. STRIP YOUR SANITY...
FEEL LIKE GHOST RIDER AND I WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR A REASON...
AND SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT IF WE DON'T, NOBODY ELSE CAN. NOT SPIDER-MAN, OR THE F.F. NO ONE...
TO STOP THIS THING.
I'M SORRY GOOD-BYE, CAGE.
I AIN'T GOIN' OUT LIKE THAT!!


SKULL?
GHOST RIDER?
GONE. SO'S DARKLOVE.
AND HE LEFT EVERYBODY HE POSSESSED MINDLESS HUSKS.
WHA?! THE PAGE!
THE PAGE--I SEEN IT SOMEPLACE...
...BEFORE.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

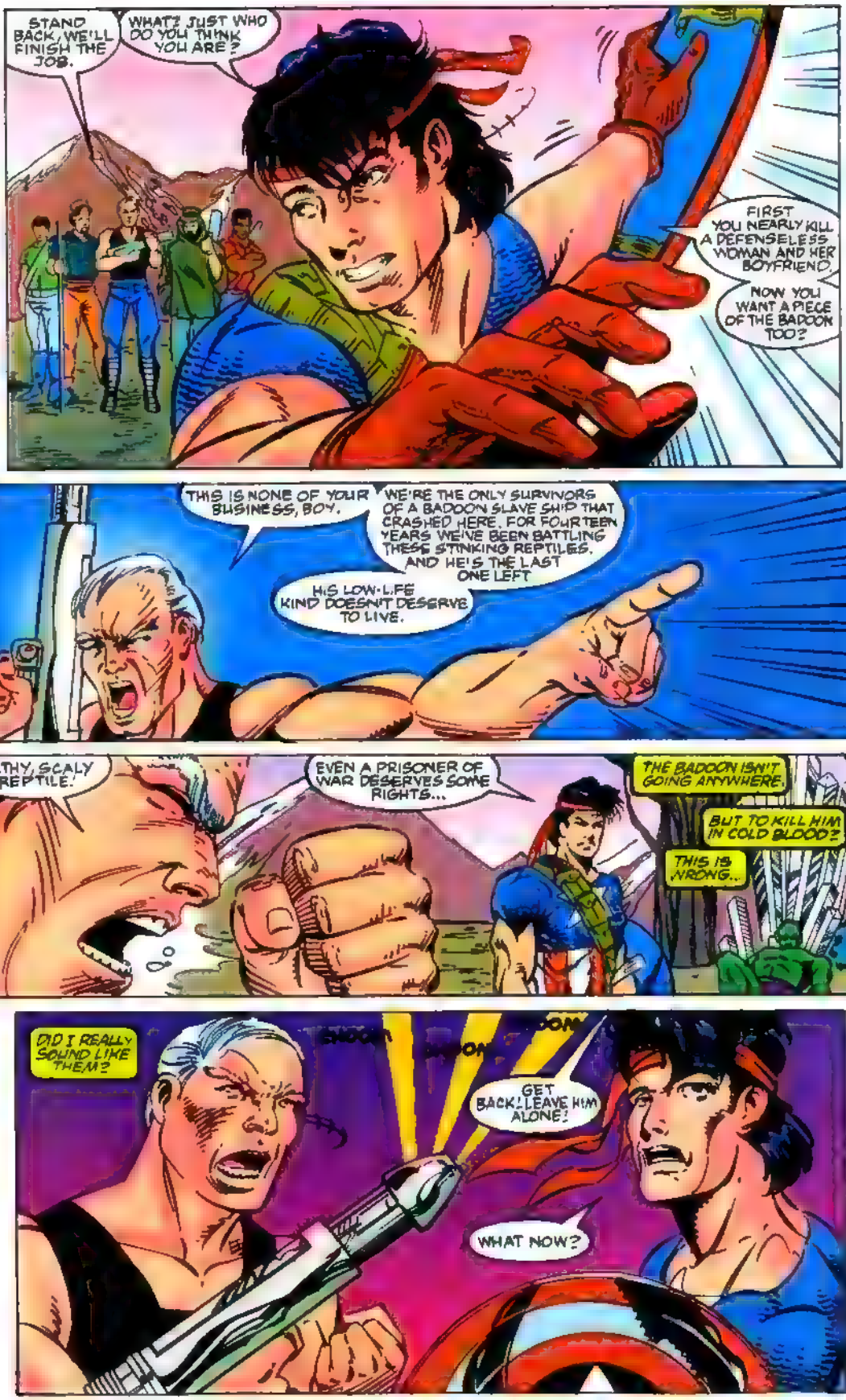

TRUE LOVE
FEATURING
MAJOR VICTORY
EXPLORER I - SHUTTLE LOG: VANCE ASTRONIK RECORDING - 08.10
ANY LANDING YOU CAN WALK AWAY FROM IS A GOOD ONE...
THE IDIOT WHO SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY NEVER SAW A REAL CRASH.
I WAS ABLE TO SALVAGE A LASER-RIFLE, SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND AT LEAST THREE DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD RATIONS
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE S.O.S. BEACON IS STILL OPERATIONAL. WITH ANY LUCK, THE GUARDIANS WILL FIND ME IN NO TIME.
HOPEFULLY, AVOIDING THE GRAVITY WELL THAT NAILED ME.
ALTHOUGH, IF NIKKI IS AT THE CONTROLS GOD HELP 'EM

ON THE WAY DOWN I SCANNED RANDOM HUMANOID LIFE SIGNS.
THE PORTABLE SCANNER SHOULD HELP ME PIN-POINT THEM.
THE SMART MOVE WOULD BE TO STAY PUT. BUT THIS'LL GIVE ME SOME-THING TO DO.
BESIDES, IF I HAD ANY BRAINS, I WOULDN'T HAVE FLOWN A SOLO EXPLORATION MISSION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I FIND MY FIRST LIFE SIGN
EXCEPT SHE'S BARELY ALIVE.
TAKE IT EASY, I'LL HELP YOU.
STAY AWAY... LEAVE ME ALONE...
MY NAME IS VANCE ASTRO. I'M WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
THEY BEAT US... FIND HIM BEFORE THEY DO... DON'T LET THEM KILL MY MATE... I LOVE HIM...
MED SCANS SHOW NO BROKEN BONES. WITH SOME REST YOU'LL BE OKAY.
THANKS, VANCE...


PLEASE DON'T LET THEM KILL MY MATE
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
DEBB.
ALL RIGHT, DEBB, I'M LEAVING YOU MY LASER-RIFLE. STAY HERE AND REST.
...I'M GOING FOR A QUIET LITTLE WALK.
HUMANS OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...
...BUT THE PORTABLE SCANNER WILL LEAD ME RIGHT TO THEM
I DON'T KNOW WHO IS PERSECUTING THAT COUPLE
...OR WHY
BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.
AND WHEN I DO, THEY'RE GOING TO WISH THEY'D NEVER MET...
MAJOR VICTORY

HEAVILY ARMED... GRUNGY... AND OUT FOR TROUBLE
YEP, THOSE LOOK LIKE MY BOYS.
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO SLOW THEM DOWN.
KRROOM
WHOA!
LOOK OUT!
PSYCHOKINETIC BURST GETS 'EM EVERY TIME.
I KNOW THERE'S A "ROLLING STONES HUH?" JOKE IN THERE SOMEWHERE; BUT-
THAT SOUND.

UGHNF!
YAARGH!
KRAK
SHIELD ABSORBS MOST OF THE IMPACT
BUT IT STILL HURTS.
GET YOUR FILTHY CLAWS OFF ME!
KRAM
YOU MOTHERLESS, BACK-STABBING BADOON.
LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR WEAPON.


STAND BACK, WE'LL FINISH THE JOB.
WHAT? JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
FIRST YOU NEARLY KILL A DEFENSELESS WOMAN AND HER BOYFRIEND,
NOW YOU WANT A PIECE OF THE BADOON TOO?
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, BOY.
WE'RE THE ONLY SURVIVORS OF A BADOON SLAVE SHIP THAT CRASHED HERE. FOR FOURTEEN YEARS WE'VE BEEN BATTLING THESE STINKING REPTILES. AND HE'S THE LAST ONE LEFT
HIS LOW-LIFE KIND DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE.
FILTHY, SCALY REPTILE!
EVEN A PRISONER OF WAR DESERVES SOME RIGHTS...
THE BADOON ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
BUT TO KILL HIM IN COLD BLOOD?
THIS IS WRONG..
DID I REALLY SOUND LIKE THEM?
GET BACK! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
WHAT NOW?

HI, GUYS_
REMEMBER ME?
NO, DARLING, GET BACK! THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO!
THAT'S YOUR "MATE"?!
IT'S DISGUSTING!
FILTHY BADOON LOVER! SHOULD'VE FINISHED HER BEFORE!
KILL THEM BOTH NOW!
THE BEATEN COUPLE TO MY LEFT...
"...THE BLOOD-THIRSTY MOB ON THE RIGHT...
"...AND I'M IN THE MIDDLE.
SOME CHOICE.

NOT MUCH CHOICE AT ALL.
SWISHH
YOU PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING A WAR THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY DEFEATED THE BADOON MONTHS AGO. WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO LET GO OF THE OLD HATREDS, TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH OUR LIVES.
WHEN THE GUARDIANS ARRIVE TO RESCUE US, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO HOME, HELP REBUILD EARTH.
BEEP BEEP
VANCE, ARE YOU OKAY?
RIGHT ON CUE.
NIKKI, WE HAVE SOME GUESTS. PLEASE TELEPORT THE FIVE HUMANS ON MY RIGHT.
SHOOM
THANK YOU AGAIN, VANCE.
YOU TWO HAVE A CHANCE AT A CLEAN START.
MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
SOMEHOW, I KNOW THEY WILL
THE END.

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MACNEIL '93
WOLVERINE
ALSO:
IRON FIST

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Colin McNeil — COVER
Richard Ashford — EDITOR
Michael Kraiger — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

WOLVERINE ..... pg. 1
BROTHERS IN ARMS
Part 3 of 5
"CHAIN REACTION"

Chained at the wrist, Cyber and Wolverine prepare to rip out each other's throats!

Writer — DAN SLOTT
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist —STEVE & MARIANNE LIGHTLE

IRON FIST ..... pg. 9
DEPTHS OF DESPAIR
Part 2 of 4
"A FALL FROM GRACE"

Iron Fist, Colleen Wing and Misty Knight face perils galore with the Yakuzida Clan!

Writer — TONY MATIAS
Penciler — FRED HAYNES
Inker — JEFF ALBRECHT
Letterer —KENNY LOPEZ
Colorist — GLYNIS OLIVER

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c/o Marvel Comics Group
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Dear Marvel Presents,

All I can say for you giving Crossbones a chance in issue #129 is thank you, thank you, thank you!!! It's about time someone gave this guy an opportunity, since he (so far) is overlooked and underrated in CAPTAIN AMERICA. I think you've got another Wolverine or Punisher on your hands, if you play your cards right. Please keep giving Crossbones more appearances. He has more potential than to just be the Red Skull's right hand man. And to present him as a slightly anti-hero (he saved a hospital full of people from a gang of punks) was just what I was hoping for, since in Crossbone's CAPTAIN AMERICA appearances, he is sometimes on the verge of disobeying the Red Skull, or almost acting like a decent human being. Anyway, in closing, can you tell me who created the character, and if you will someday put Crossbones against Wolverine. Now that would be awesome! (They almost met in CAPTAIN AMERICA #364, pg. 16).

Rick Cummings
(Address withheld by request)

The master—Mark Gruenwald—created Crossbones Rich, and perhaps one day Crossbones will come to realize the error of his evil ways and become more than just a part-time reluctant hero. Until that time, it seems to be just a bit of temporary goodwill.

Dear Marvel Presents,

I enjoyed issue #130 a great deal. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS definitely goes through its periods of ups and downs for me and right now it's up! Why, you may ask? Only because some of my favorite characters have been featured of late. For instance, I cannot say how glad I am to see Typhoid Mary once again. Steve Lightle is pretty darn good too. Here's my vote for more of Ann's work. She earns a Grade A every time.

Iron Fist—a cool fellow, an interesting serial and another character I enjoy seeing. Can't wait for him to have his own title. I like Joey Cavalieri's tongue in cheek style of writing. It keeps me awake and amused. But I have to say making those references to "Mystery Science Theater" makes me wonder. Sometimes I wonder if your writers get outside much. Make sure they get a breath of fresh air once in a while, okay? Dave Hoover and Jeff Albrecht's art is top-knotch. Overall, "The Book of Changes" serial, at this point, earns an A-. I eagerly await his wrap-up of this serial.

The American Eagle story didn't quite do it for me. I felt it needed more development than possible in the confining number of pages allotted to it. I'll rate it a B.

As for "Passion Play" perhaps Dan Slott left the ending ambiguous on purpose. I'm sure that there's more in store for the Lynx in future issues. This one I rate somewhere between a B+ and an A-. Some installments of this one I enjoyed more than others.

Until next time, Sayonara and keep up the good stuff.

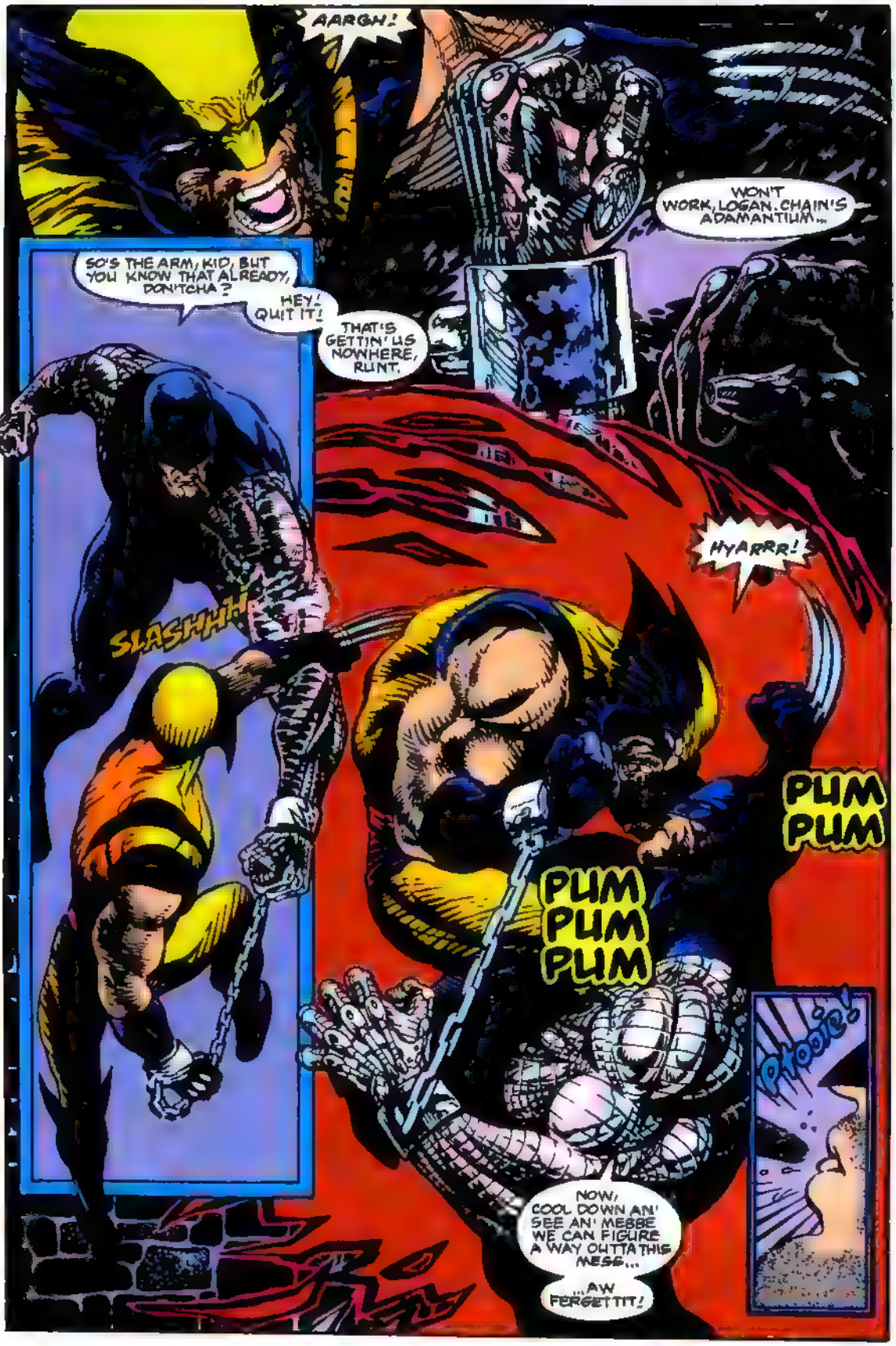
Dan Drier
17 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA

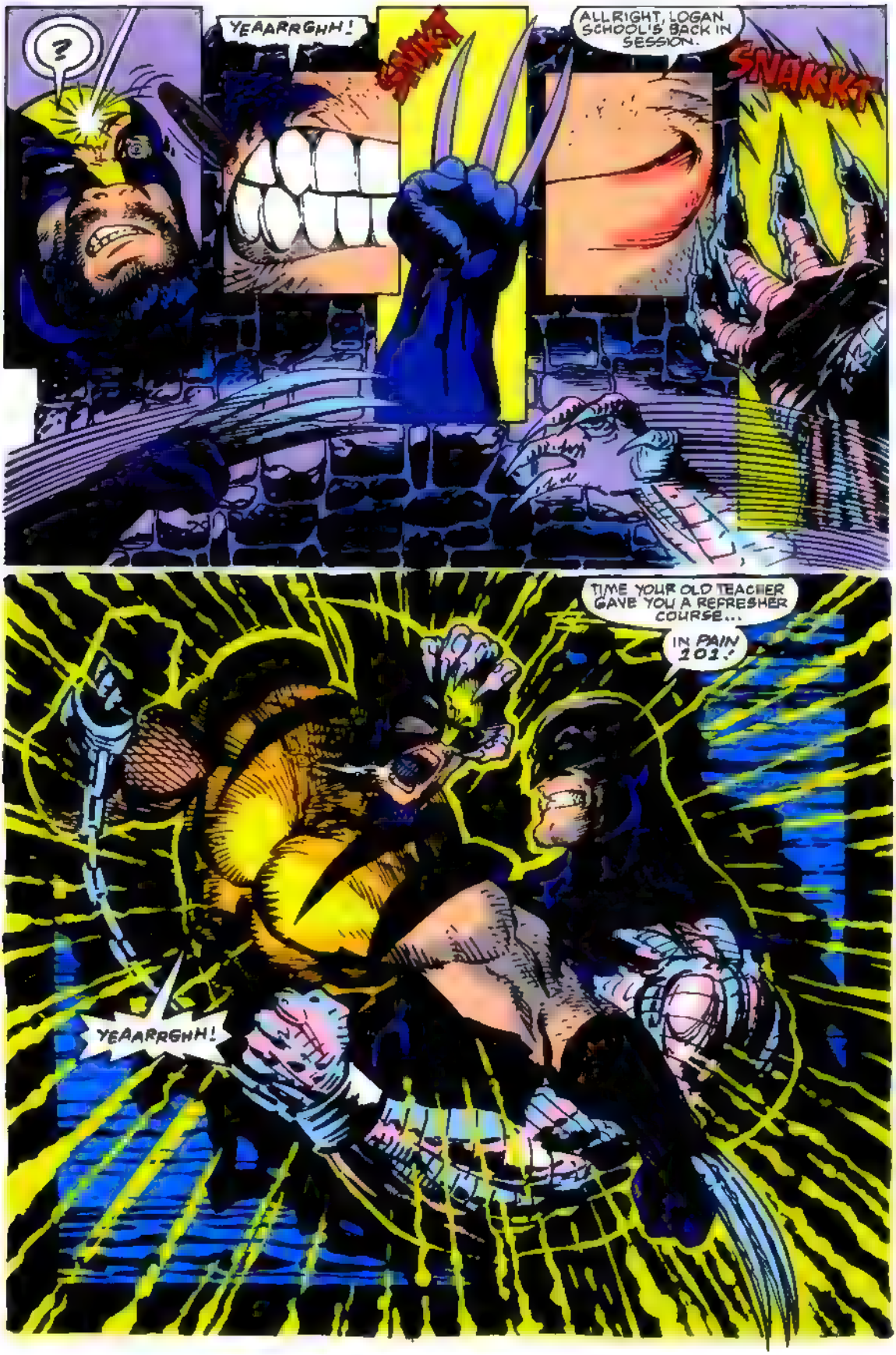
Dear Marvel Presents,

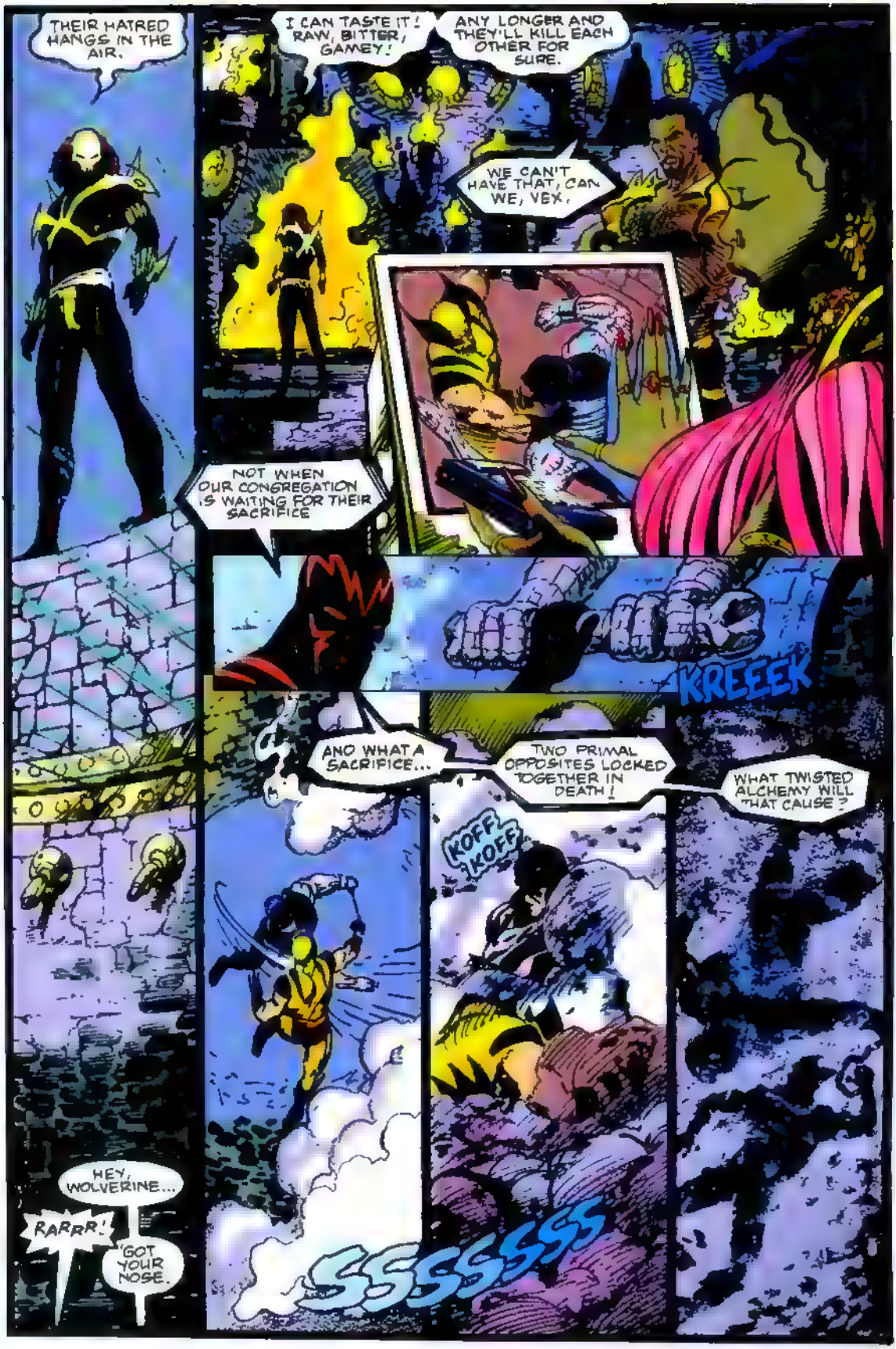
Just a few short words. You're doing a wonderful job and I enjoy the unpredictability, the fresh approach I always find in this title. Thanks, guys.

Lodge Kanigan
(Address withheld by request)

IN JUST ONE NIGHT, HAD MY LUCKY HAT SMASHED, BEEN MARKED FOR HUMAN SACRIFICE, SET ON FIRE PUMMELED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS...
... AND CHAINED UP TO MY WORST ENEMY; CYBER!
SHRAAASHHH
THINK I'M TAKIN' IT VERY WELL ..
CHAIN REACTION

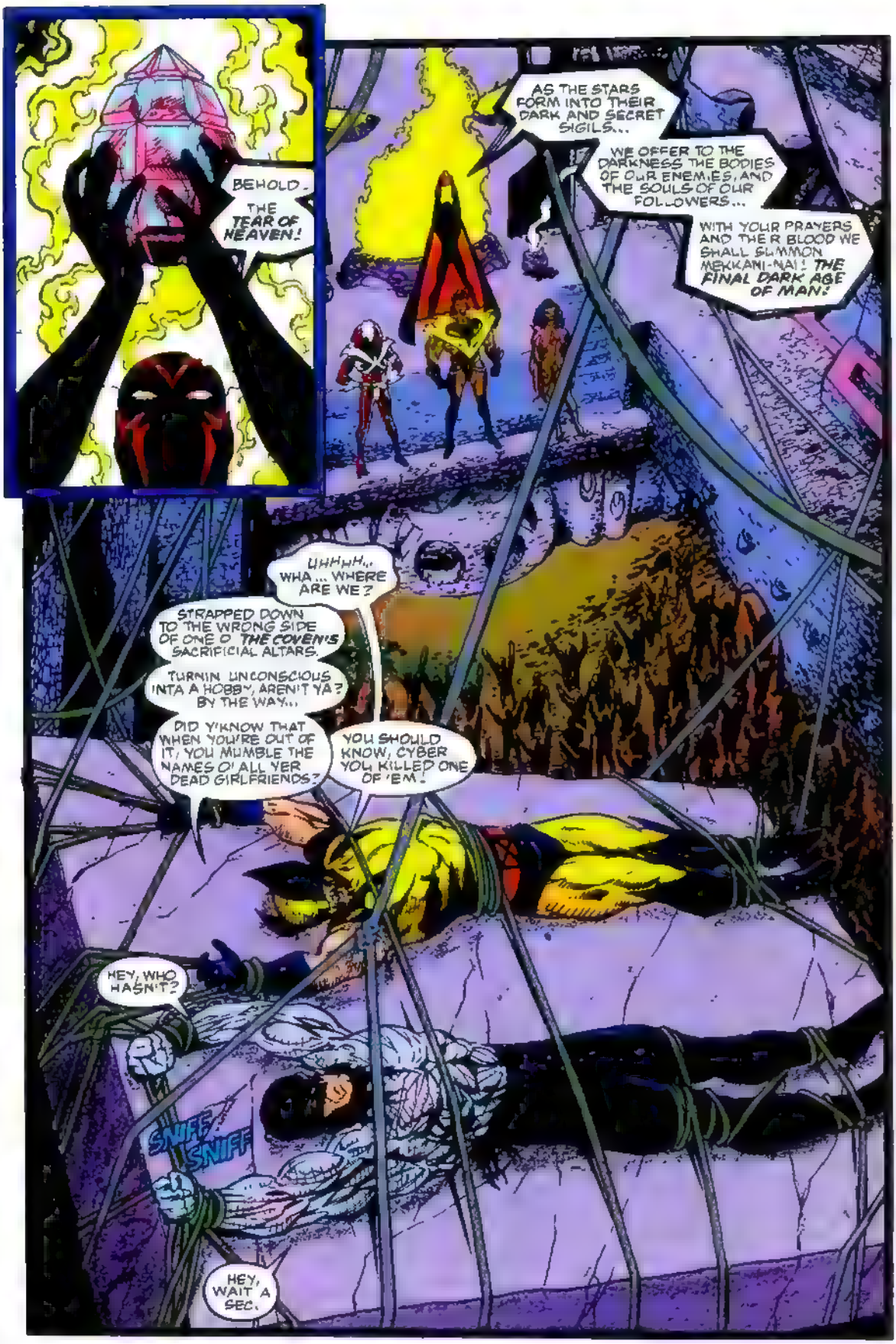

AARGH!
WON'T WORK, LOGAN. CHAIN'S ADAMANTIUM...
SO'S THE ARM, KID, BUT YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY, DON'TCHA?
HEY! QUIT IT!
THAT'S GETTIN' US NOWHERE, RUNT.
HYARRR!
SLASHHH
PLIM PLIM
PLIM PLIM PLIM
PTOOIE!
NOW, COOL DOWN AN' SEE AN' MEBBE WE CAN FIGURE A WAY OUTTA THIS MESS...
...AW FERGET IT!


?
YEAARRGHH!
SNIKT
ALLRIGHT, LOGAN SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION.
SNAKKT
TIME YOUR OLD TEACHER GAVE YOU A REFRESHER COURSE...
IN PAIN 101!
YEAARRGHH!


THEIR HATRED HANGS IN THE AIR.
I CAN TASTE IT! RAW, BITTER, GAMEY!
ANY LONGER AND THEY'LL KILL EACH OTHER FOR SURE.
WE CAN'T HAVE THAT, CAN WE, VEX.
NOT WHEN OUR CONGREGATION IS WAITING FOR THEIR SACRIFICE
KREEEK
AND WHAT A SACRIFICE...
TWO PRIMAL OPPOSITES LOCKED TOGETHER IN DEATH!
WHAT TWISTED ALCHEMY WILL THAT CAUSE?
KOFF KOFF
HEY, WOLVERINE...
RARRR!
GOT YOUR NOSE.
SSSSSSS

THE ALIGNMENT HASN'T PASSED!
THERE'S STILL TIME! AND I'VE MADE IT TO THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN!
WELL, BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...
...THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!
HELLO?
IT'S ME, KAYLA. I'M BACK!

WHAT, NO ONE MISSED ME?
GUESS IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
WRONG, KAYLA. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.
IN A FEW SHORT HOURS THE ALIGNMENT WILL PASS...
...AND WITH IT, THE CHANCE TO BRING ABOUT EITHER AN AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT OR DARKNESS, AND THE COVEN...
AND THE GEM, KAYLA, WHAT OF THE GEM?
DON'T WORRY.
THE COVEN ONLY THINK THEY HOLD ALL THE CARDS...
TRUST ME. THEIR FINAL DARK AGE WILL NOT COME TO PASS.
I'VE FOUND A WORTHY CHAMPION. I'M SURE HE HAS EVERYTHING WELL IN HAND


BEHOLD - THE TEAR OF HEAVEN!
AS THE STARS FORM INTO THEIR DARK AND SECRET SIGILS...
WE OFFER TO THE DARKNESS THE BODIES OF OUR ENEMIES, AND THE SOULS OF OUR FOLLOWERS...
WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND THEIR BLOOD WE SHALL SUMMON MEKKANI-NAI! THE FINAL DARK AGE OF MAN!
UHHHH... WHA... WHERE ARE WE?
STRAPPED DOWN TO THE WRONG SIDE OF ONE O' THE COVEN'S SACRIFICIAL ALTARS.
TURNIN UNCONSCIOUS INTA A HOBBY, AREN'T YA? BY THE WAY...
DID Y'KNOW THAT WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF IT, YOU MUMBLE THE NAMES O' ALL YER DEAD GIRLFRIENDS?
YOU SHOULD KNOW, CYBER YOU KILLED ONE OF 'EM.
HEY, WHO HASN'T?
SNIFF SNIFF
HEY, WAIT A SEC.

-OGAN, SMELL THAT?
CAN'T SMELL A THING 'CEPT BLOOD. YOU SLICED MY NOSE, REMEMBER...?
SNAKKT
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU...?
NO!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
ACID!
THEY'RE LOWERIN' US INTO A VAT O' ACID!
$#@%!
ALL THAT'S GONNA BE LEFT O' US...
...IS A BIG PILE O' ADAMANTIUM SKIN 'N' BONES!
TO BE CONTINUED...

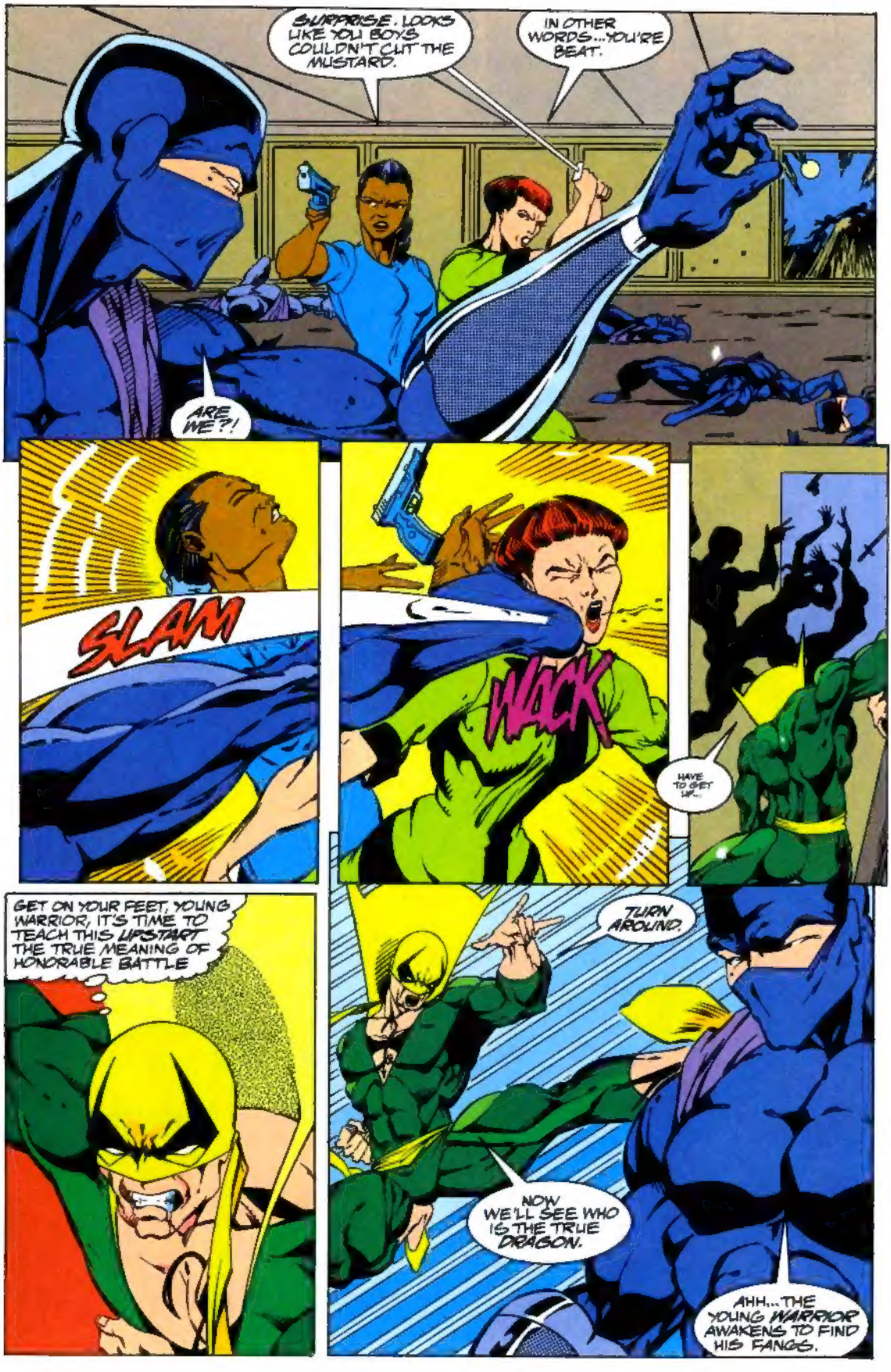
DEPTHS OF DESPAIR--PART II
A FALL FROM GRACE
SO, MISTY, IRON FIST, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD START WORRYING?
NO, COLLEEN, NOT YET. WE'RE ONLY OUT-NUMBERED TWENTY TO ONE. IF IT GETS WORSE, THEN WE WORRY
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU LADIES ARE HANDLING THE SITUATION WITH SUCH GRACE. THESE RED DRAGON WARRIORS ARE FIERCE FIGHTERS.
LAUGH NOW, BUT SOON...YOU WILL BE SWIMMING IN A POOL OF YOUR OWN BLOOD.

COLLEEN--MY... A BIT MELODRAMATIC, ARE WE?
OOOFF!
I AM AMAZED AT YOUR ARROGANCE, BUT IT WILL MAKE IT A GREATER PLEASURE TO KILL YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.
THEN WE WILL ELIMINATE KARL POWERS-- THE TURNCOAT INFORMANT-- AND REJOICE IN OUR VICTORY!
CRAAK
THE ONLY THING YOU'LL EXPERIENCE WILL BE COLD STEEL THROUGH YOUR HEART!
AAIEEE!
MISSED!
IT SEEMS YOUR BATTLE PROWESS IS NOT AS IM-PRESSIVE AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE.
CRACK
UMH!
MEANWHILE... IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE WAREHOUSE, WHERE THE F.B.I. IS PROTECTING THE INFORMANT.
I HATE THIS WAITING. I HOPE SOMETHING HAPPENS SOON.
CLICK
THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHIN'!
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR...
GETTIN' WHAT YOU WANT, MIGHT BE WORSE THAN NOT.
DITTO ON THAT. THE QUIETER, THE BETTER.

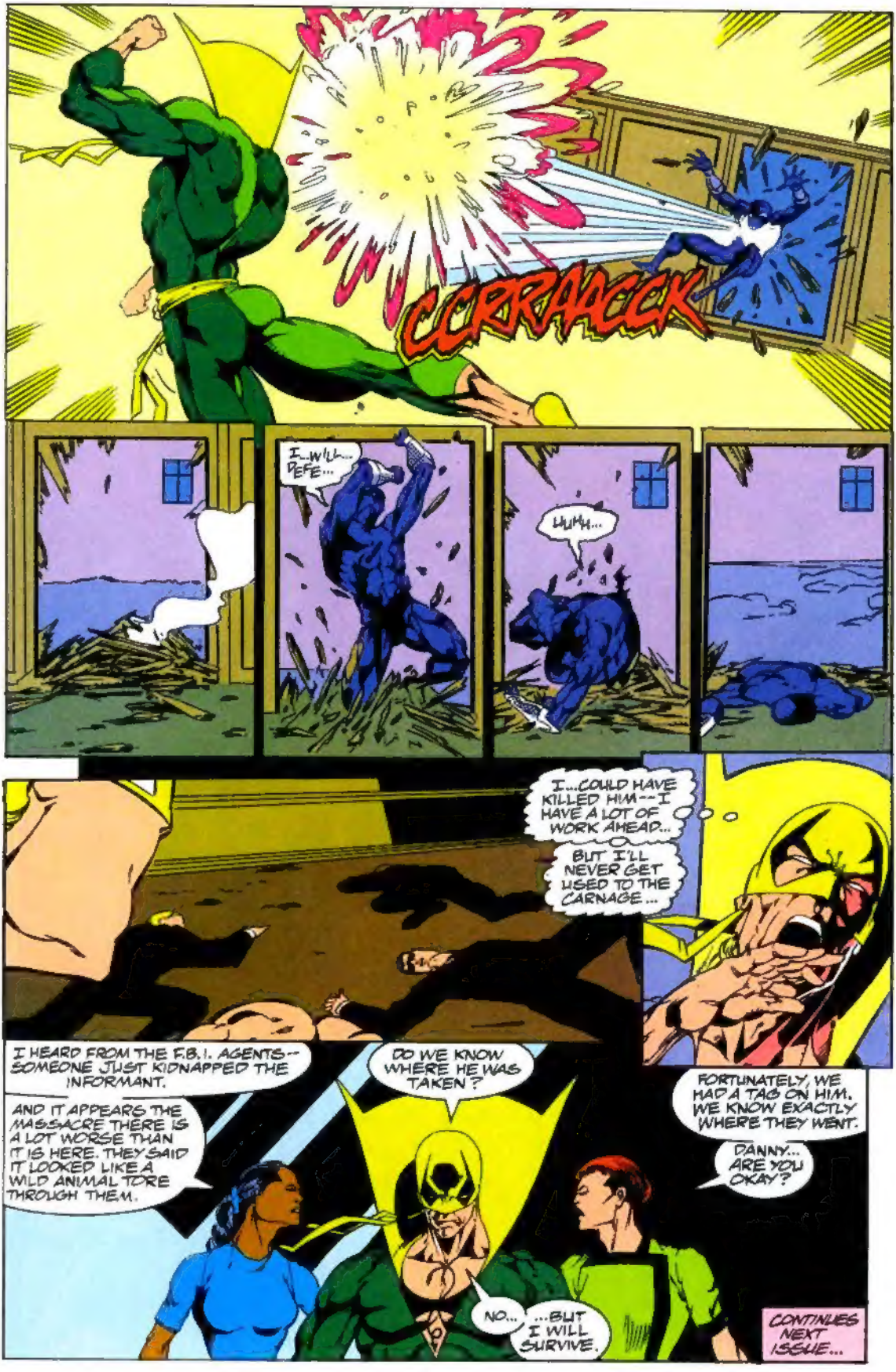
WUH?
GUESS WHO!?
OH $#@#! SABRETOOTH!
RIPP
SHRED
AARRGGH!
NAIL HIS BUTT!
SHUT THE @%#* UP AND SHOOT!
MY.. AREN'T WE THE FRIENDLY TYPES? CAME TO VISIT, AND WHAT DO YOU DO. YOU GO AND SHOOT AT ME!
NOW THAT, TICKS ME OFF! ME, I JUST CAME BY TO TAKE KARL "THE RAT" POWERS OFF YOUR HANDS.
RIP
AACCKK!
WELL, BOYS, I AIM TO COLLECT WHAT I CAME FOR.

NO!
GET AWAY!
LEAVE ME ALONE
LOOK... I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING
PLEASE...
STOP YOUR WHINING, POWERS -- YOU'RE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP.
NEARBY.
SNAP OUT OF IT, YOUNG WARRIOR. YOU'RE MOVING ENTIRELY TOO SLOW, TELEGRAPHING ALL OF YOUR MOVES. ONE MISTAKE, AND IT WILL BE YOUR LAST
MY JINS IS INEFFECTIVE IT'S SO HARD TO BLEND SPIRIT AND BODY, I CAN'T ACHIEVE A GOOD MELD.
CRACK
GET UP, YOU SHAME YOUR SANPEI. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE... AT LEAST THEN YOU WOULD HAVE SOME HONOR
NEVER. THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO ACHIEVE HONOR.

LOOK AT YOURSELF. YOU'RE FIGHTING LIKE A RANK AMATEUR.
HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN, INDEED!
I ASK MYSELF. WHY WAS I SO PLEASED IN ENCOUNTERING YOU IN BATTLE? YOU ARE NOT A FIGHTER.
BUT I SEE... THAT THE WARRIOR IS BUT A PALE SHADOW OF WHAT HE ONCE WAS. HOW PITIFUL!
POP
BETTER MEN HAVE TRIED TO BEST ME, ONLY TO FAIL!
AARRGGHH!
BUT I'M NOT JUST ANYONE. UNLIKE YOU, I AM A TRUE WARRIOR. IN SPIRIT AND BODY.
A WARRIOR MUST CHOOSE A PATH WITH HONOR, AS IS HIS BIRTHRIGHT. IN DEATH, THAT PATH IS HOW WE ARE JUDGED.
YOU HAVE TAKEN A DIVERGING PATH.
PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY. YOU HAVE NOT BEEN AN HONORABLE FOE.
KLIK
HUH?!


SURPRISE. LOOKS LIKE YOU BOYS COULDN'T CUT THE MUSTARD.
IN OTHER WORDS...YOU'RE BEAT.
ARE WE?!
SLAM
WACK
HAVE TO GET UP...
GET ON YOUR FEET, YOUNG WARRIOR, IT'S TIME TO TEACH THIS UPSTART THE TRUE MEANING OF HONORABLE BATTLE
TURN AROUND.
NOW WE'LL SEE WHO IS THE TRUE DRAGON.
AHH...THE YOUNG WARRIOR AWAKENS TO FIND HIS FANGS.

PLEASE...
PATHETIC. JENG JING IS NOT YOURS. YOU FIGHT WITH BODY, BUT NOT SPIRIT. YOU EASILY DEPLETE YOUR JING, BUT CANNOT RECLAIM IT.
IT WILL BE NO HONOR TO KILL ONE SUCH AS YOU.
AMAZING. HIS MOVES ARE FANTASTIC, FILLED WITH GRACE... WHICH LATELY, I DO NOT HAVE.
BUT, HE IS RIGHT. MY MEDITATIVE MIND IS IN FLUX, I CAN'T BLEND EFFECTIVELY.
I SHOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM WITH MY SKILLS, BUT I HAVE NOT. THAT WILL CHANGE. IT MUST!


CCRRAACCK
I...WILL... DEFE...
UUMH...
I...COULD HAVE KILLED HIM--I HAVE A LOT OF WORK AHEAD...
BUT I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE CARNAGE...
I HEARD FROM THE F.B.I. AGENTS--SOMEONE JUST KIDNAPPED THE INFORMANT.
AND IT APPEARS THE MASSACRE THERE IS A LOT WORSE THAN IT IS HERE. THEY SAID IT LOOKED LIKE A WILD ANIMAL TORE THROUGH THEM.
DO WE KNOW WHERE HE WAS TAKEN?
FORTUNATELY, WE HAD A TAG ON HIM. WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY WENT.
DANNY... ARE YOU OKAY?
NO... ...BUT I WILL SURVIVE.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...